

Inspectors Offering More Services!

When was the last time an IDEM inspector was thanked by a company for conducting a compliance inspection? Usually, the answer is "it's been a while" or "never". However, that has changed for the Office of Air Management (OAM) inspectors over the past few months.

In addition to traditional compliance inspections, OAM has been

using some nontraditional ways to assist Indiana companies to comply with air related requirements. One example is the assistance provided to companies recently issued a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit (FESOP). In December, OAM issued more than 300 FESOPs, as required by the new Title V operating permit program. The look of the new

permits and some of the requirements are significantly different than the old State Operating Permits. For example, the FESOPs contain specific conditions to enable a company to demonstrate compliance on a continuous basis, including a certification of compliance or if the company was not in compliance, statements indicating that the

Continued on page 10

Partners Celebrates Second Year!

Celebration was in the air at the second annual Partners for Clean Air awards luncheon.

Old and new partners gathered on Jan. 14 at the Indiana Oaks Inn of Chesterton to celebrate the many accomplishments of the coalition's second year.

The biggest accomplishment was the introduction of free rides on the Gary and Hammond transit systems on Ozone Action Days. On these days, the drivers covered fare boxes and all normal routes were free.

This program encourages commuters to leave their cars at home and use public transit to do their part toward cleaner air.

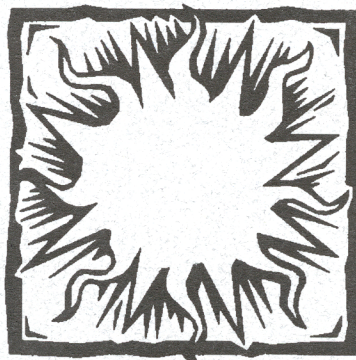
"Initial numbers show that ridership increased 25 percent on Ozone Action Days," said Felicia George, assistant commissioner for OAM.

A second accomplishment was announced by Brian Urbaszewski of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. IEPA conducted a survey in the Chicago area in August that showed significantly increased awareness of Ozone

Action Days and ozone levels because of a summer media campaign.

"When we did this survey in March, only 31 percent of respondents were aware of Ozone Action Days" said Urbaszewski. "The

PARTNERS FOR



CLEAN AIR

same survey in August showed that nearly 88 percent of respondents were aware."

Although this survey was conducted in Chicago, it also applies to the neighboring Indiana counties. "You can make logical jumps to the counties in Indiana because they receive the same television and radio messages," said Urbaszewski.

To kick off the third year, Art Smith of the Northern Indiana

Public Service Company announced that NIPSCO will form a team to investigate a special rate for industrial customers that reduce ozone causing emissions on Ozone Action Days.

Partners receiving special recognition at the luncheon were: Gary Public Transportation Corp., Hammond Transit System, NIPSCO, Inland Steel, Bethlehem Steel, General American Transportation Corp., U.S. Steel, and the Hoosier Environmental Council.

A total of 63 businesses and organizations are now Partners for Clean Air. New partners for 1996 included: Ivy Tech State College, Indiana University Northwest, General American Transportation, Gary Public Transportation Corp., Hammond Transit System, Envirotech Systems, Michiana Industries, A&R Pipeline Co., Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, Indiana Department of Transportation, LaPorte Chamber of Commerce, LaPorte County Health Department, and Philips Pipeline.

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Inspectors *(continued from page 9)*

noncompliance was corrected during the past year.

In order to assist permitted facilities to understand the FESOP format and conditions, OAM's inspectors have taken a nontraditional approach.

The OAM Compliance Branch made it a goal to meet with personnel from every company who received a FESOP. The OAM inspectors have been meeting with plant personnel to go over each FESOP requirement. Advance notice of the inspection ensures that the appropriate environmental or plant personnel are available. These announced inspections augment OAM's regular unannounced inspection program.

Some of the requirements that are new to the companies are new monitoring, record keeping, and visible emissions notations. Inspectors explain these requirements and point out problems to help insure the companies

stay in compliance with their new permits. In some instances, the inspectors help the companies develop the proper inspections and checklists. Where needed, the inspectors have arranged additional meetings at IDEM offices.

The OAM Compliance Branch is also using several other techniques to help the companies understand their new permit requirements. In February, the Compliance Branch approached the Asphalt Paving Association (APA) about putting on a special training session for their members that have received FESOPs. The inspectors, along with Permit Branch staff, put on the training and answered questions about specific permit conditions.

OAM also put on a training program in March for companies that have similar operations in South Bend and Elkhart.

Another example of improved

compliance assistance is stack test reminder notices. OAM now sends notices to sources required to conduct stack tests, reminding them of when their stack tests are due. This advance notice helps insure that the companies have plenty of time to submit the proper notification and get the appropriate tests scheduled and completed before they are due.

OAM hopes that these efforts will help the sources better understand their permit requirements and lead to better compliance.

In almost every case, the companies have expressed their appreciation for helping them. Because of the success of the program, OAM is looking to extend the program into the Title V operating permits program, beginning in December.

A "thank you" at the end of an air inspection is not all that rare these days.